Archie ADVENTURE SERIES

SEGA®

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

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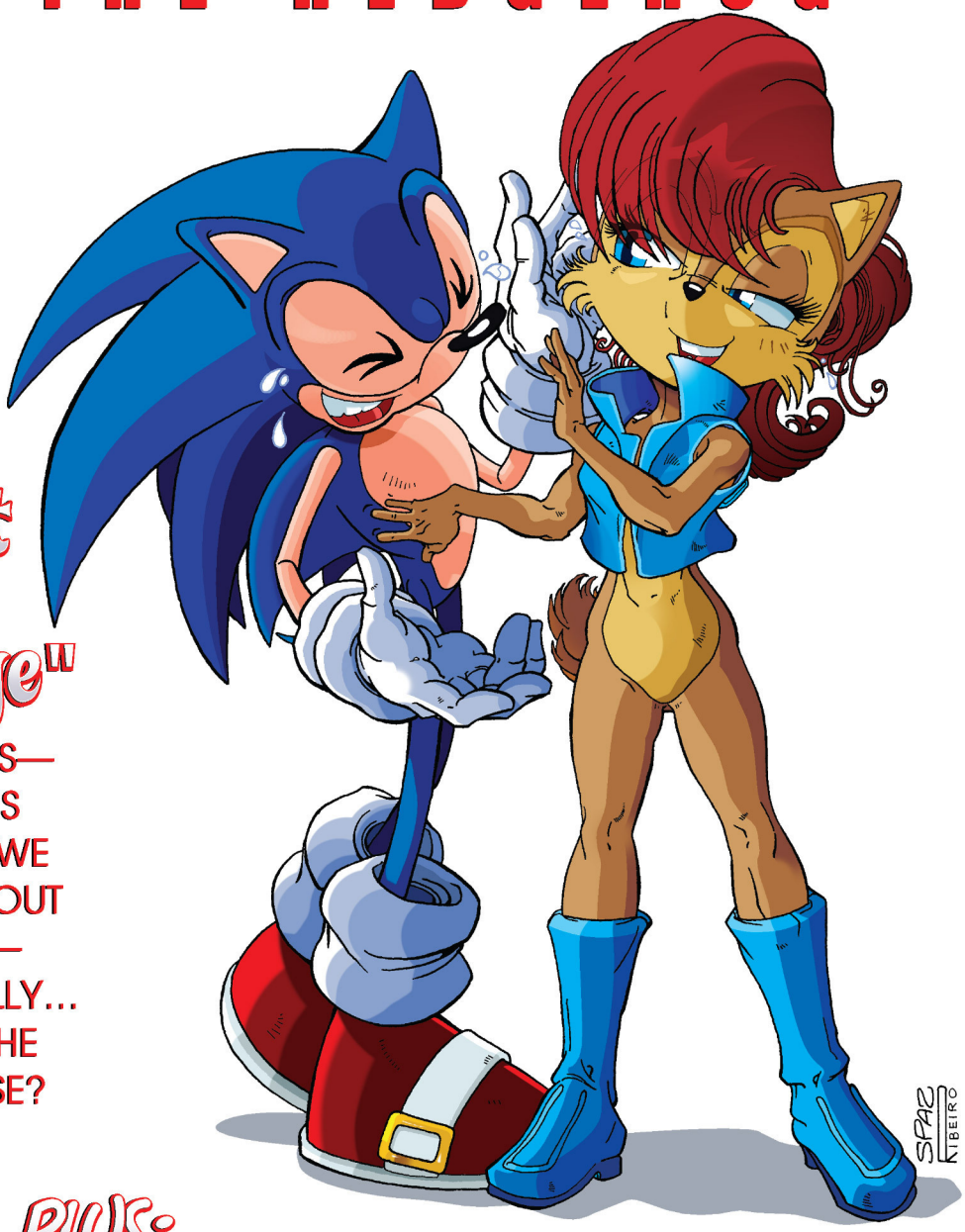

TORN BETWEEN TWO HOTTIES: "Heart Held Hostage" CONCLUDES—BUT WHO'S HEART ARE WE TALKING ABOUT ANYWAY—PRINCESS SALLY... OR MINA THE MONGOOSE?

PLUS:

RAD RED MIGHT BE DEAD BUT IT DOESN'T STOP HIM FROM GETTING HIS OWN STORY—IT'S THE THIRD INSTALLMENT OF "AFTERLIFE"

WHO OR WHAT IS **THE LAST ROBIAN?** SONIC FINDS OUT BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE HIM HAPPY

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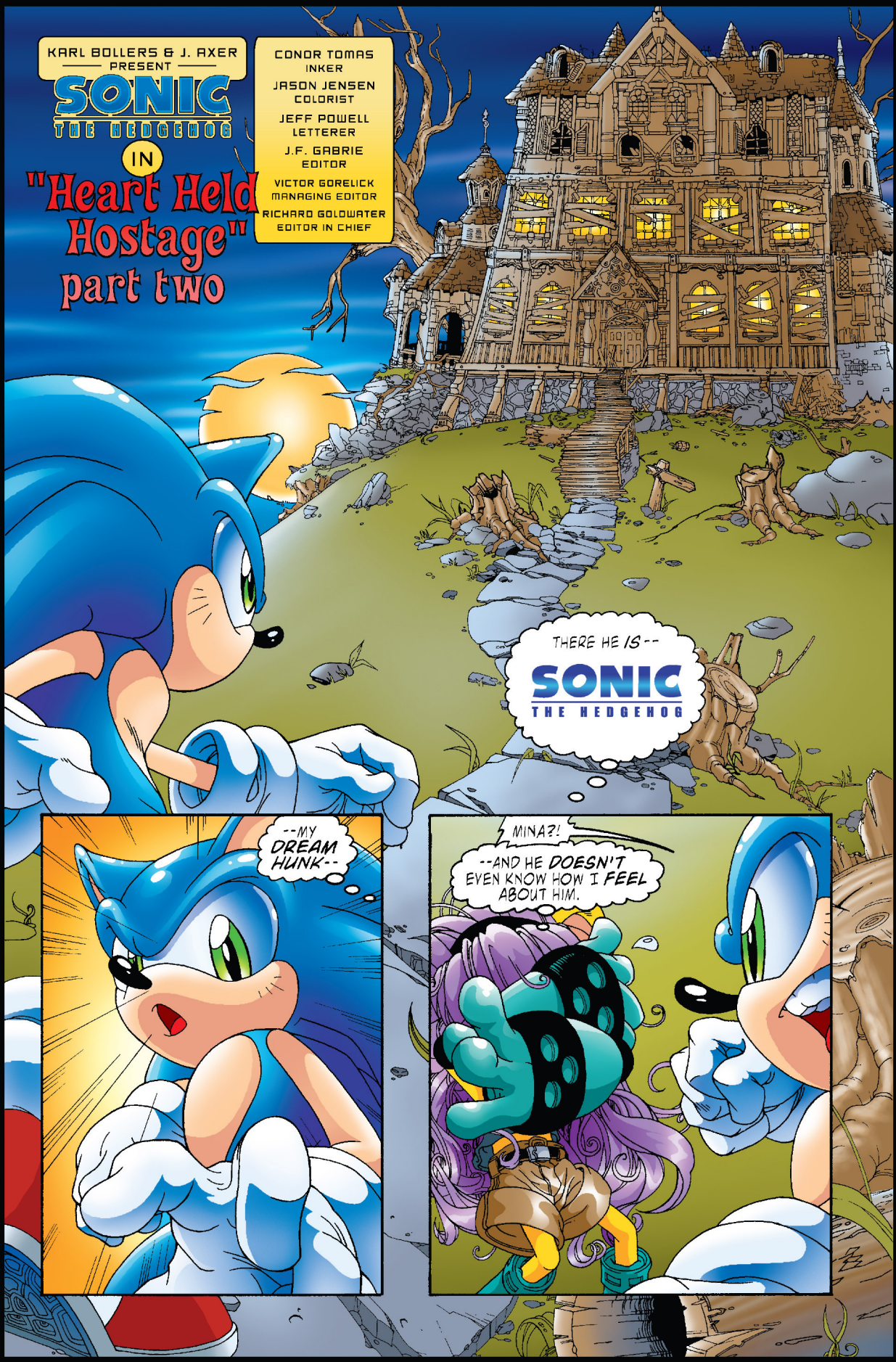
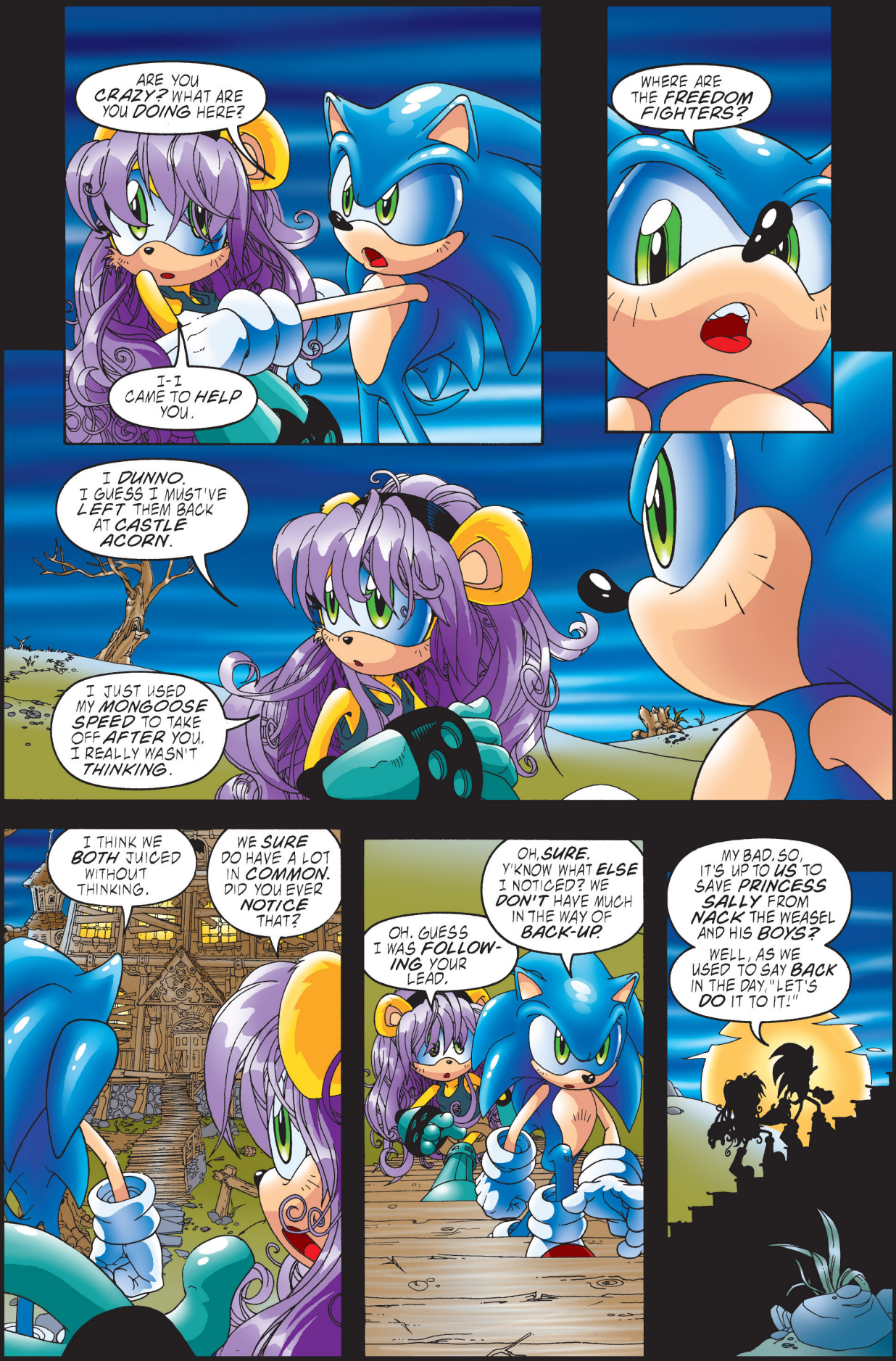
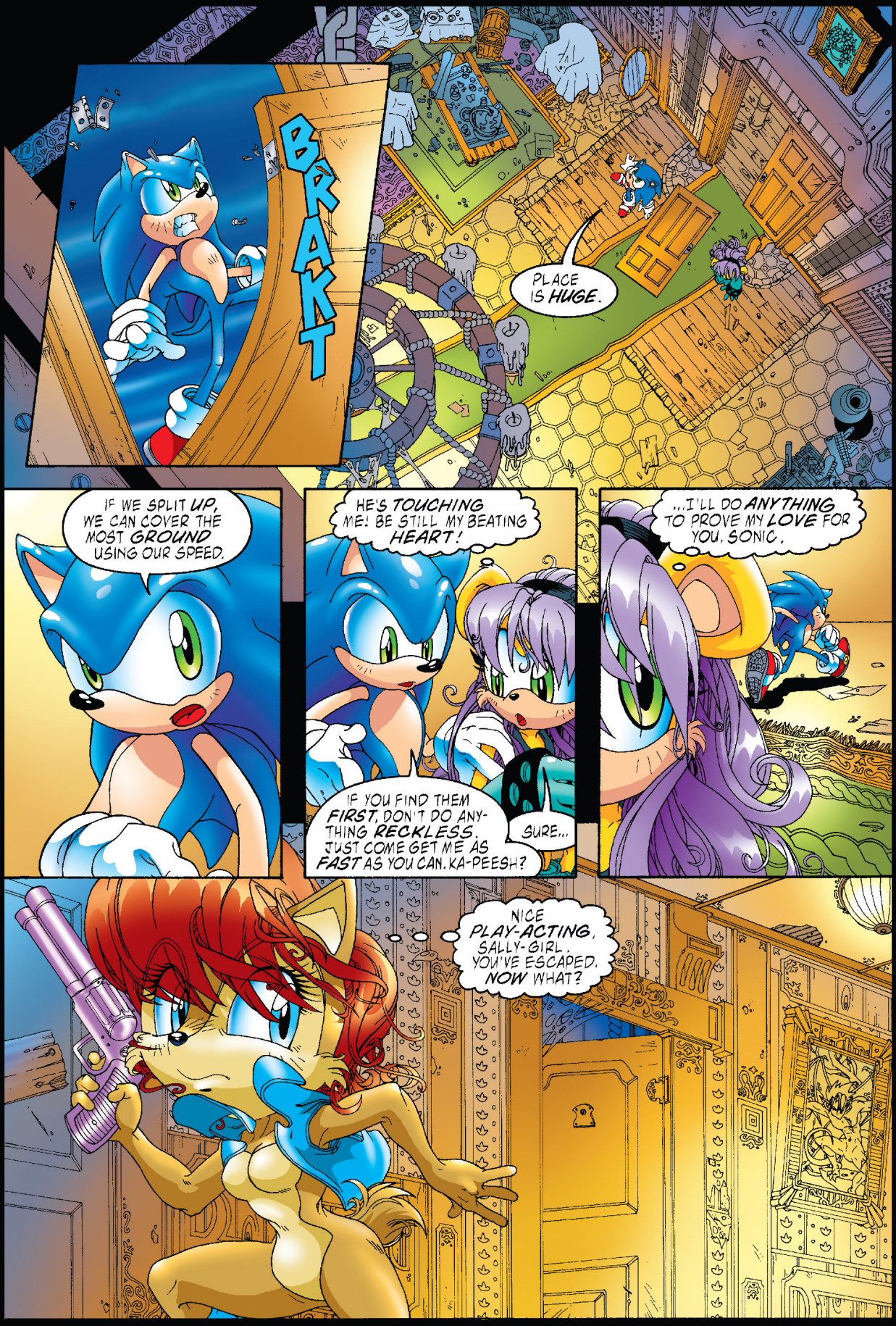

KARL BOLLERS & J. AXER
PRESENT
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
IN
"Heart Held Hostage"
part two
CONOR TOMAS
INKER
JASON JENSEN
COLORIST
JEFF POWELL
LETTERER
J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR
VICTOR GORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR IN CHIEF
THERE HE IS--
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
--MY DREAM HUNK--
MINA?!
--AND HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM.

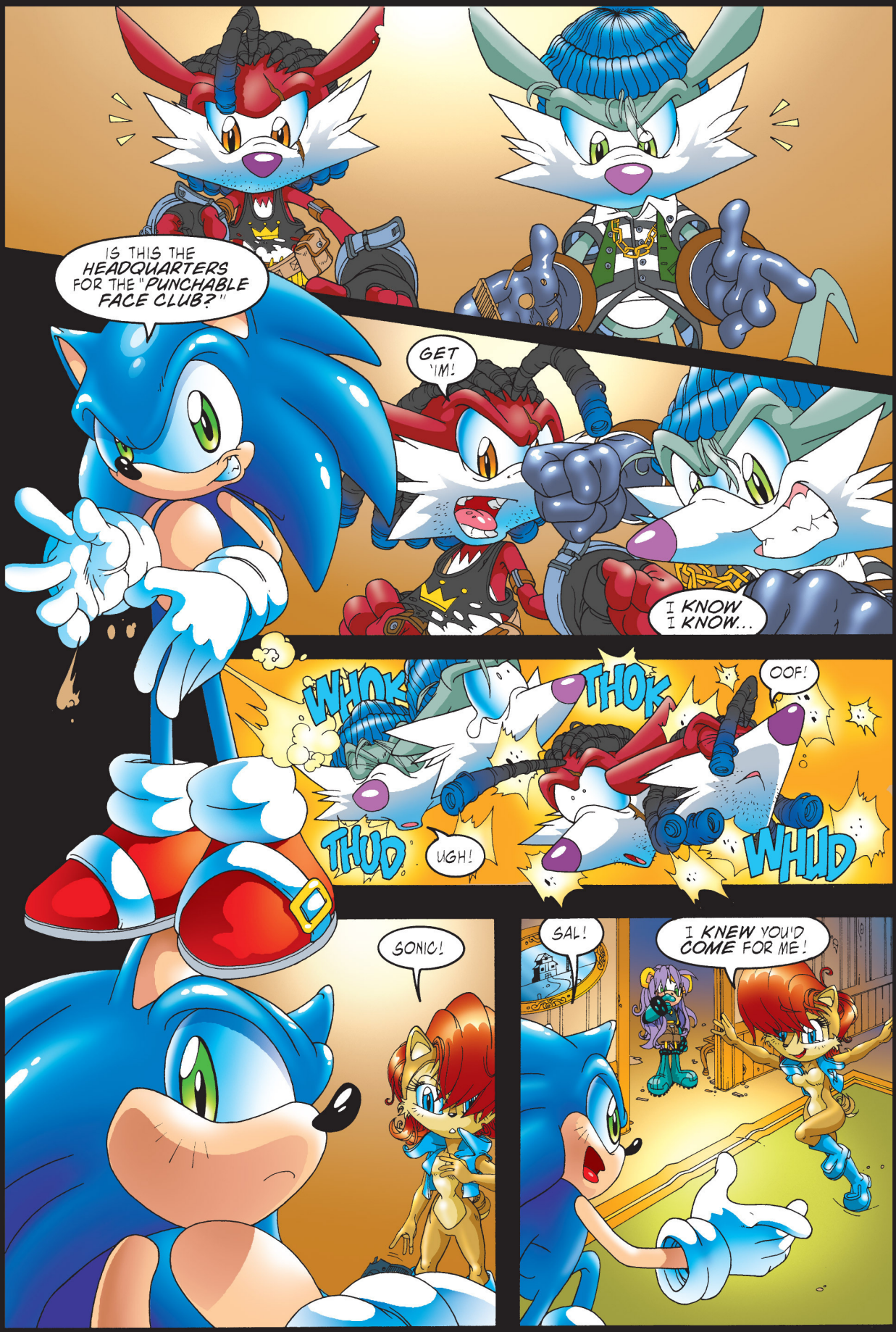

ARE YOU CRAZY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I-I CAME TO HELP YOU.
WHERE ARE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS?
I DUNNO. I GUESS I MUST'VE LEFT THEM BACK AT CASTLE ACORN.
I JUST USED MY MONGOOSE SPEED TO TAKE OFF AFTER YOU. I REALLY WASN'T THINKING.
I THINK WE BOTH JUICED WITHOUT THINKING.
WE SURE DO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. DID YOU EVER NOTICE THAT?
OH. GUESS I WAS FOLLOW-ING YOUR LEAD.
OH, SURE. Y'KNOW WHAT ELSE I NOTICED? WE DON'T HAVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF BACK-UP.
MY BAD. SO, IT'S UP TO US TO SAVE PRINCESS SALLY FROM NACK THE WEASEL AND HIS BOYS?
WELL, AS WE USED TO SAY BACK IN THE DAY, "LET'S DO IT TO IT!"

WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING...
SO, COULD YOU RUN IT BY ME AGAIN, NACK? WHY EXACTLY DID YOU KIDNAP ME?
IT'S GENIUS, BABY!
YOU'RE A PRINCESS WHICH MEANS MOMMY AND DADDY ARE KING AND QUEEN. Y'DIG? WE HOLD YOU HOSTAGE THEY PAY US BIG TO GIVE YOU BACK.
THAT'S YOUR INGENIOUS SCHEME? TRADE ME OFF FOR SOME OF THE FAMILY'S LEFTOVER KINDLING? HUH. I'D HEARD A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT YOU NACK...
...BUT I GUESS I HEARD WRONG.
WHAT DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ME? WHO TOLD YOU?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
WHY NOT LET ME JOIN YOUR GANG? I COULD KEEP PRETENDING TO BE A HOSTAGE, AND MY PARENTS COULD KEEP PAYING YOU FOR MY SAFE RETURN.

WHY SO SURPRISED? DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE HAVING ALL OF YOUR WEALTH CONTROLLED BY YOUR PARENTS?
IT'S AWFUL! THIS WOULD BE MY CHANCE TO GET BACK AT THEM.
WHOA, PRINCESS, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD ALL THIS TEENAGE RESENTMENT TOWARD THE 'RENTS.
WELL, WOULDN'T YOU?
OF COURSE. I FEEL YOUR PAIN...
REALLY? DOES IT FEEL ANYTHING...
...LIKE THIS?
OOH!
KRUNCH
SIT THIS ONE OUT, TOUGH GUY.
I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT, BUT DON'T BE DUMB, FELLAS. NOW, PUT DOWN THOSE WEAPONS NICE AND SLOW.


BRAKT
PLACE IS HUGE.
IF WE SPLIT UP, WE CAN COVER THE MOST GROUND USING OUR SPEED.
HE'S TOUCHING ME! BE STILL MY BEATING HEART!
IF YOU FIND THEM FIRST, DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS. JUST COME GET ME AS FAST AS YOU CAN. KA-PEESH?
SURE...
...I'LL DO ANYTHING TO PROVE MY LOVE FOR YOU, SONIC.
NICE PLAY-ACTING, SALLY-GIRL. YOU'VE ESCAPED. NOW WHAT?

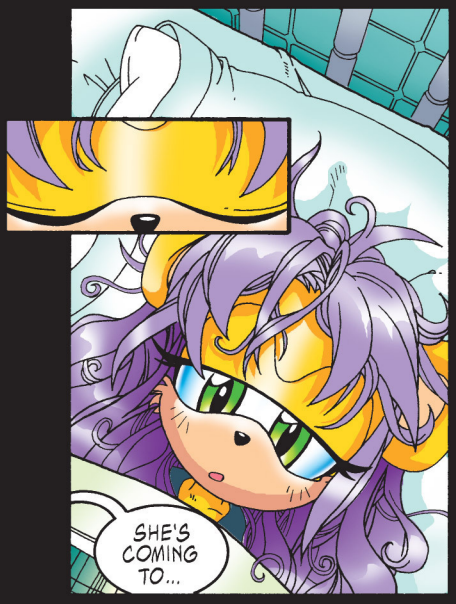
SPAK
SPAK
GUNSHOTS!
THOSE WERE WARNING SHOTS, PRINCESS!
DON'T MAKE US DO SOMETHING STUPID.
YOU GOONS DON'T NEED ME FOR THAT!
NOWHERE TO RUN-- AND I'M OUT OF AMMO!
KLIK KLIK KLIK

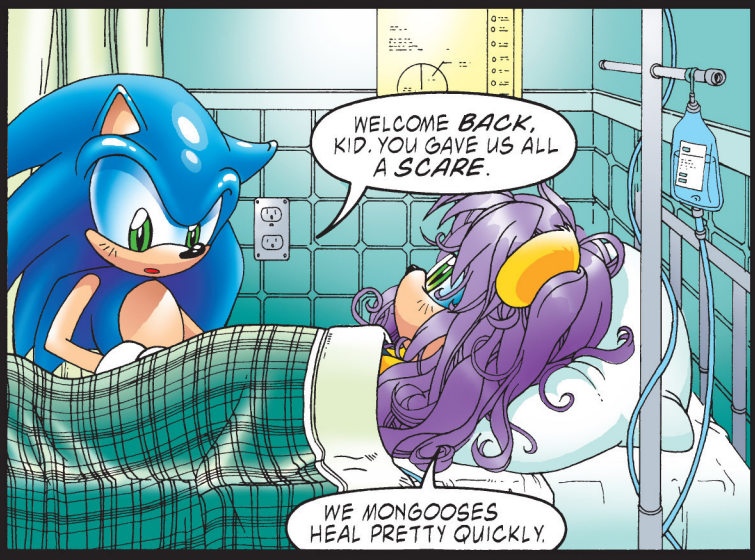

IS THIS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE "PUNCHABLE FACE CLUB?"
GET 'IM!
I KNOW I KNOW...
WHOK
THOK
OOF!
THUD
UGH!
WHUD
SONIC!
SAL!
I KNEW YOU'D COME FOR ME!

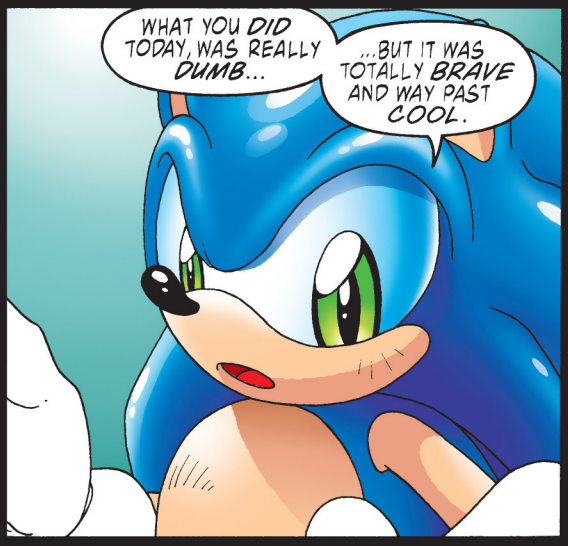
YOU ALWAYS DO! I--
I LOVE YOU.
I KNOW.
NO!

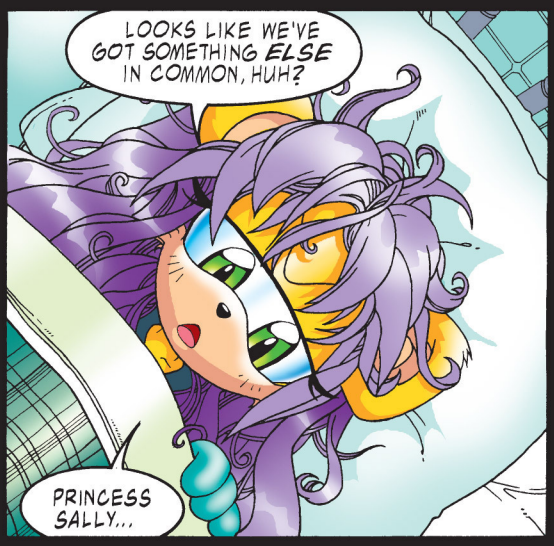
FEEL... SICK...
STUPIDSTUPIDSTUPID! HE LOVES THE PRINCESS NOT ME. I'VE BEEN FOOLING MYSELF ALL ALONG.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. EVEN THOUGH HE'LL NEVER CARE FOR ME LIKE HE DOES HER...
"...I'LL STILL DO ANYTHING FOR HIM."
WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE NACK WENT?
LOSER PROBABLY DECIDED TO CUT HIS LOSSES AND MAKE A CLEAN GETAWAY. COME ON, LET'S FIND MINA.
"I'LL CUT MY LOSSES ALL RIGHT."
"STARTING WITH THAT SPOILED BRAT PRINCESS!"
HAVE TO TRY NOT TO LOOK LIKE I'VE BEEN CRY--
WHA--?! OH NO!

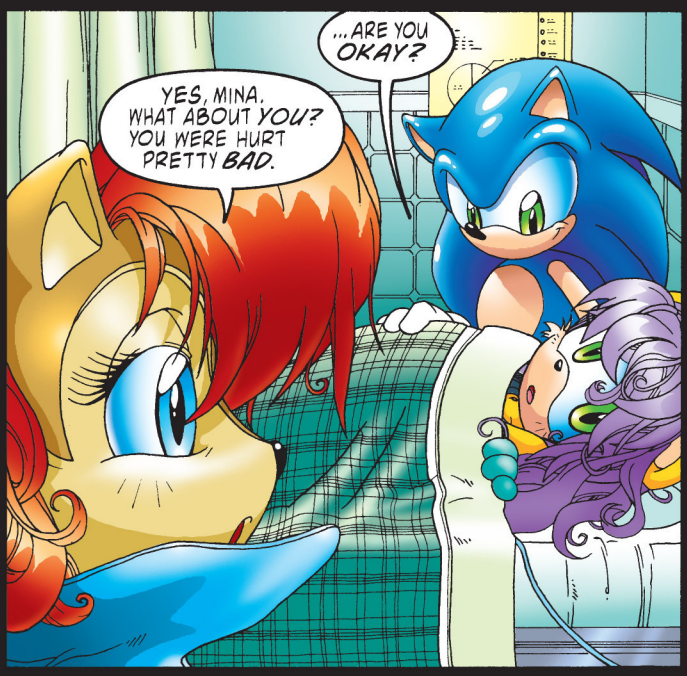
NOOOO!!
GOTTA SAVE HER--
--FOR HIM!
MINA!
SEE YA!
NO!
I...
LOVE...
...YOU... SONIC...
NO...

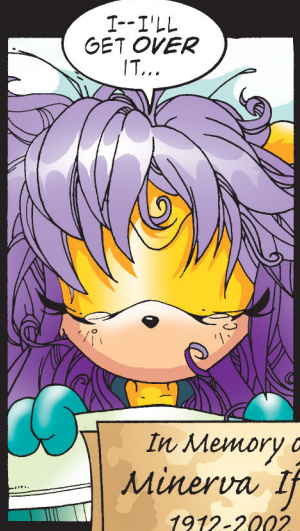




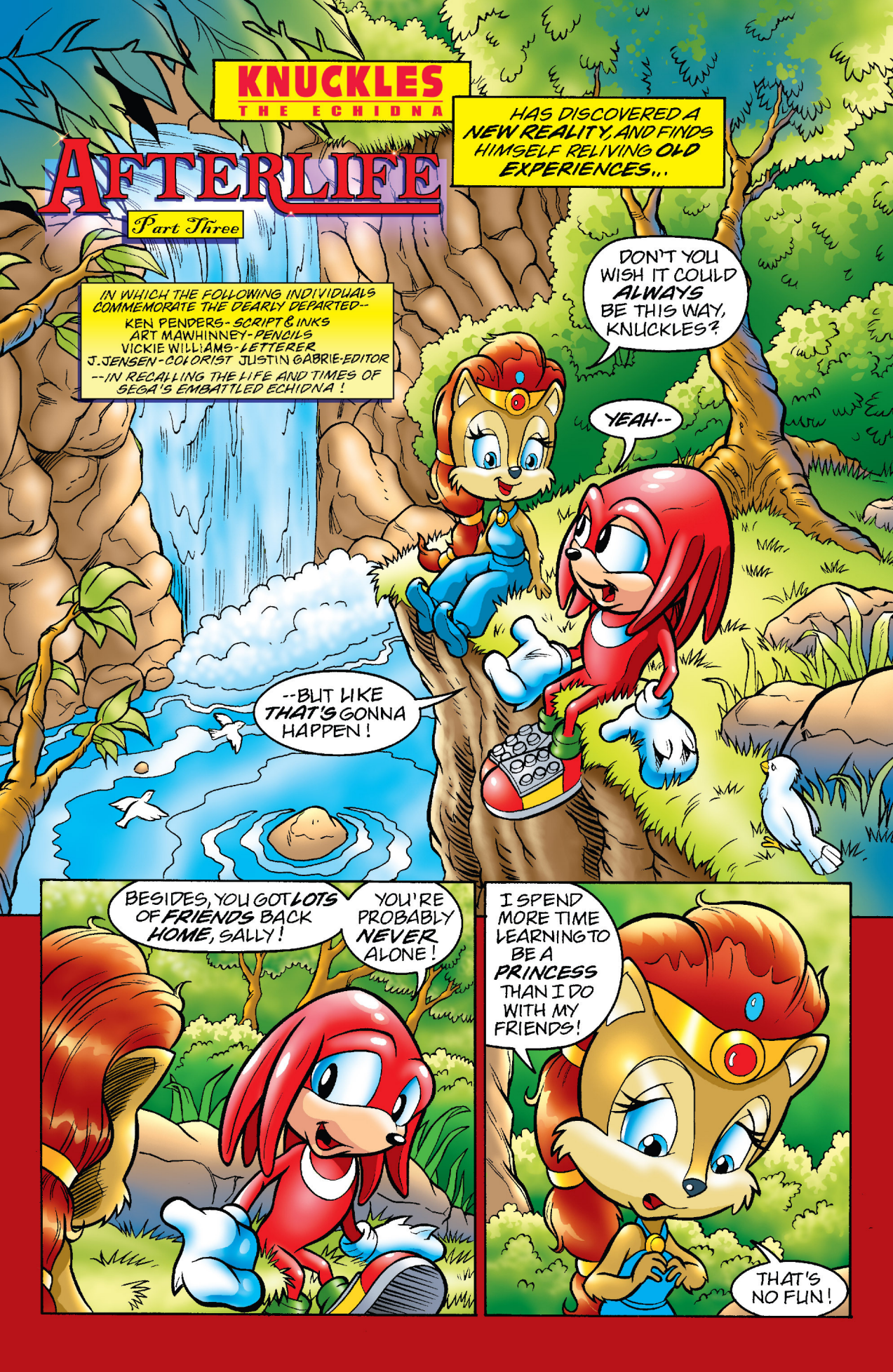




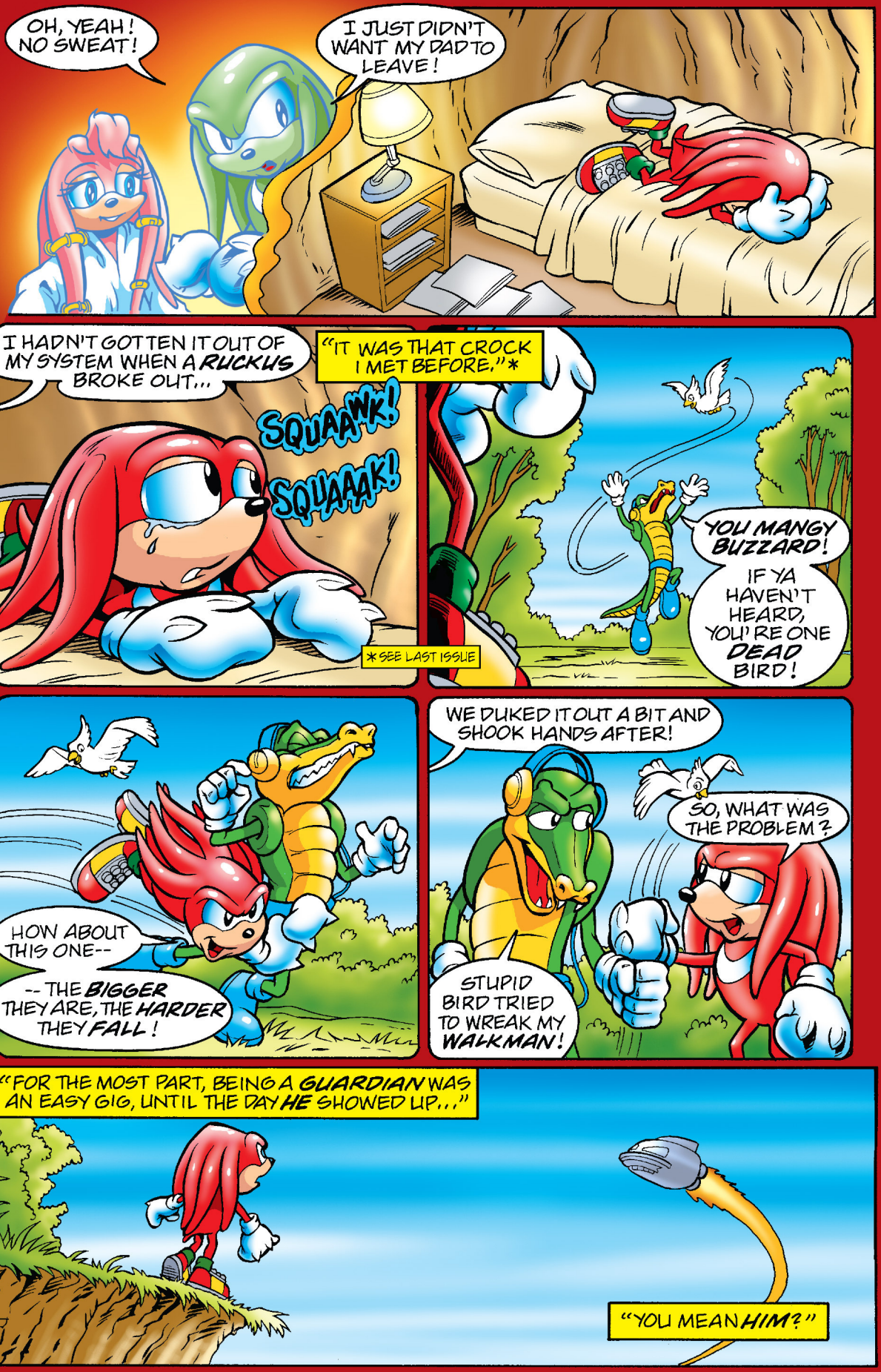


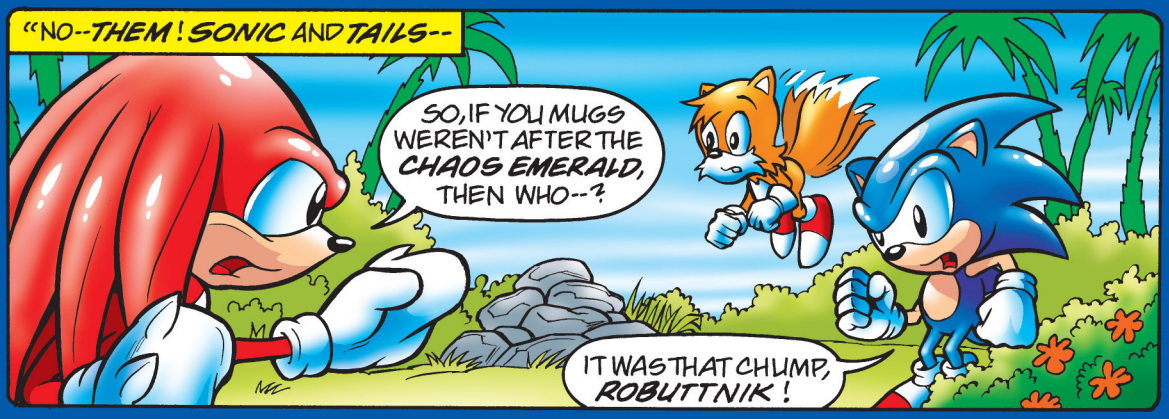


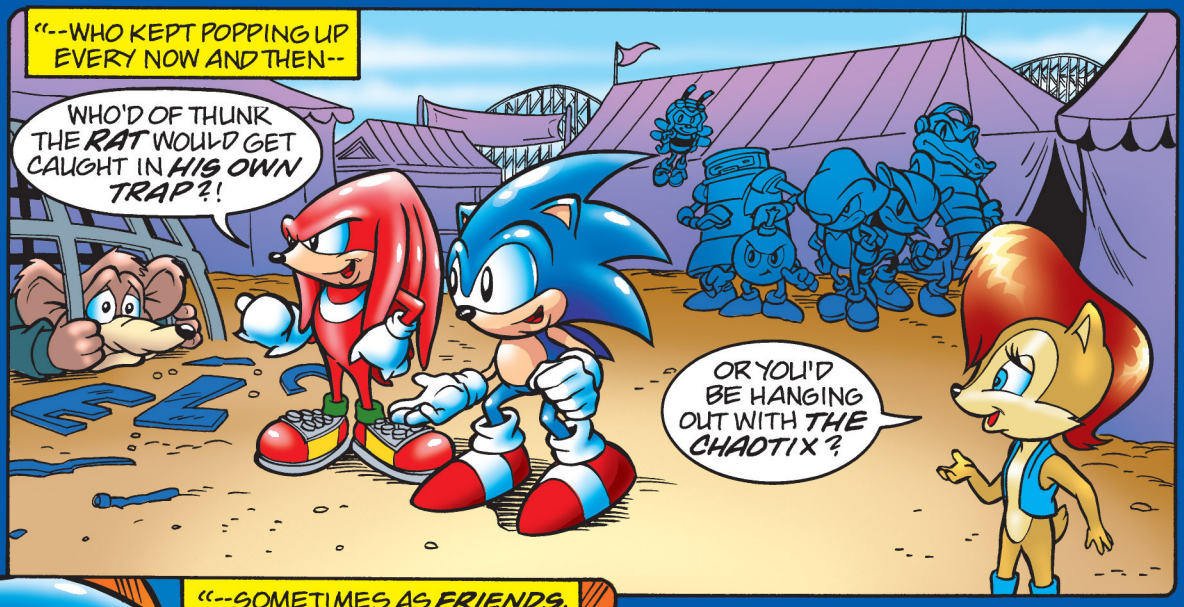
In Memory of
Minerva Ifill
1912-2002


KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA
AFTERLIFE
Part Three
HAS DISCOVERED A NEW REALITY, AND FINDS HIMSELF RELIVING OLD EXPERIENCES...
IN WHICH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS COMMEMORATE THE DEARLY DEPARTED--
KEN PENDERS - SCRIPT & INKS
ART MAWHINNEY - PENCILS
VICKIE WILLIAMS - LETTERER
J. JENSEN - COLORIST JUSTIN GABRIE - EDITOR
--IN RECALLING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SEGA'S EMBATTLED ECHIDNA!
DON'T YOU WISH IT COULD ALWAYS BE THIS WAY, KNUCKLES?
YEAH--
--BUT LIKE THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN!
BESIDES, YOU GOT LOTS OF FRIENDS BACK HOME, SALLY!
YOU'RE PROBABLY NEVER ALONE!
I SPEND MORE TIME LEARNING TO BE A PRINCESS THAN I DO WITH MY FRIENDS!
THAT'S NO FUN!

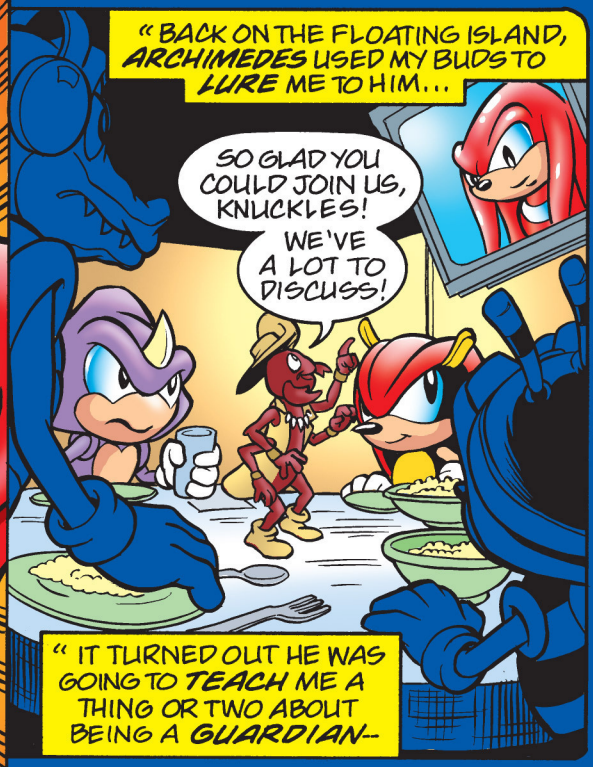
YOU WERE QUITE SMITTEN WITH THE PRINCESS, KNUCKLES!
THAT WAS BEFORE JULIE-SU!
I'M JUST SURPRISED THEY CAN'T SEE US!
AS I EXPLAINED TO YOU, YOU'RE IN A VIRTUAL ZONE--
--A REPOSITORY OF ALL LIFE'S EXPERIENCES--
--AND YOU ARE SIMPLY RELIVING YOURS!
FOR THE MOST PART, IT WAS PRETTY ROUTINE BACK THEN!
DAD WOULD SCHOOL ME, I'D DO SOME CHORES--
--AND WE HAD FUN AFTERWARDS!
UNTIL THE DAY YOU WATCHED AS HE JOURNEYED INTO THE FORBIDDEN ZONE!
DAD!
YEAH, THAT WAS TOUGH TO TAKE!
DIDN'T YOU FEEL PREPARED TO ASSUME THE MANTLE OF GUARDIAN?


OH, YEAH! NO SWEAT!
I JUST DIDN'T WANT MY DAD TO LEAVE!
I HADN'T GOTTEN IT OUT OF MY SYSTEM WHEN A RUCKUS BROKE OUT...
SQUAAWK!
SQUAAAK!
"IT WAS THAT CROCK I MET BEFORE."*
*SEE LAST ISSUE
YOU MANGY BUZZARD!
IF YA HAVEN'T HEARD, YOU'RE ONE DEAD BIRD!
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE--
-- THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL!
WE DUKED IT OUT A BIT AND SHOOK HANDS AFTER!
SO, WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?
STUPID BIRD TRIED TO WREAK MY WALKMAN!
"FOR THE MOST PART, BEING A GUARDIAN WAS AN EASY GIG, UNTIL THE DAY HE SHOWED UP..."
"YOU MEAN HIM?"

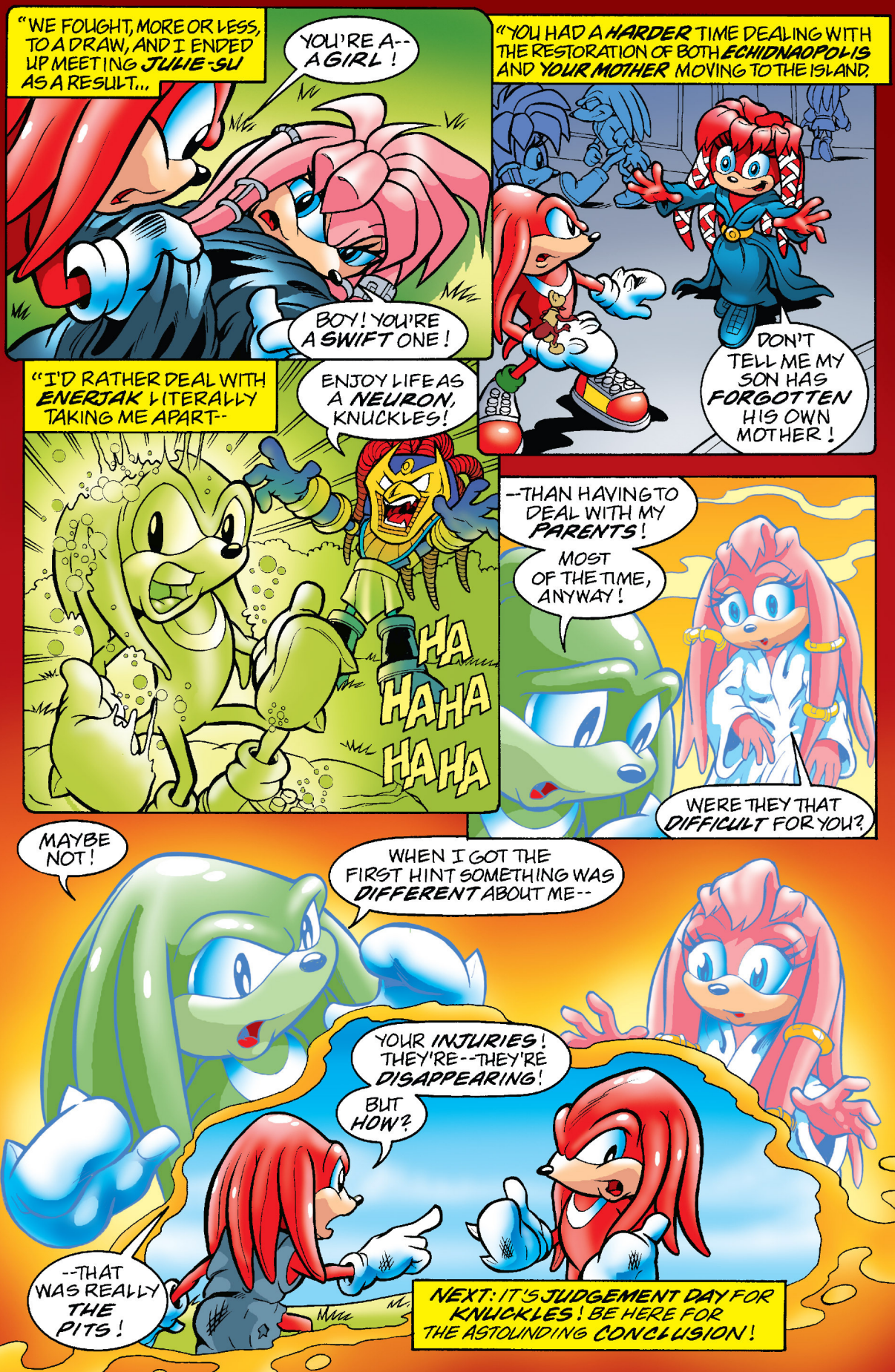

"NO--THEM! SONIC AND TAILS--
SO, IF YOU MUGS WEREN'T AFTER THE CHAOS EMERALD, THEN WHO--?
IT WAS THAT CHUMP, ROBUTTNIK!

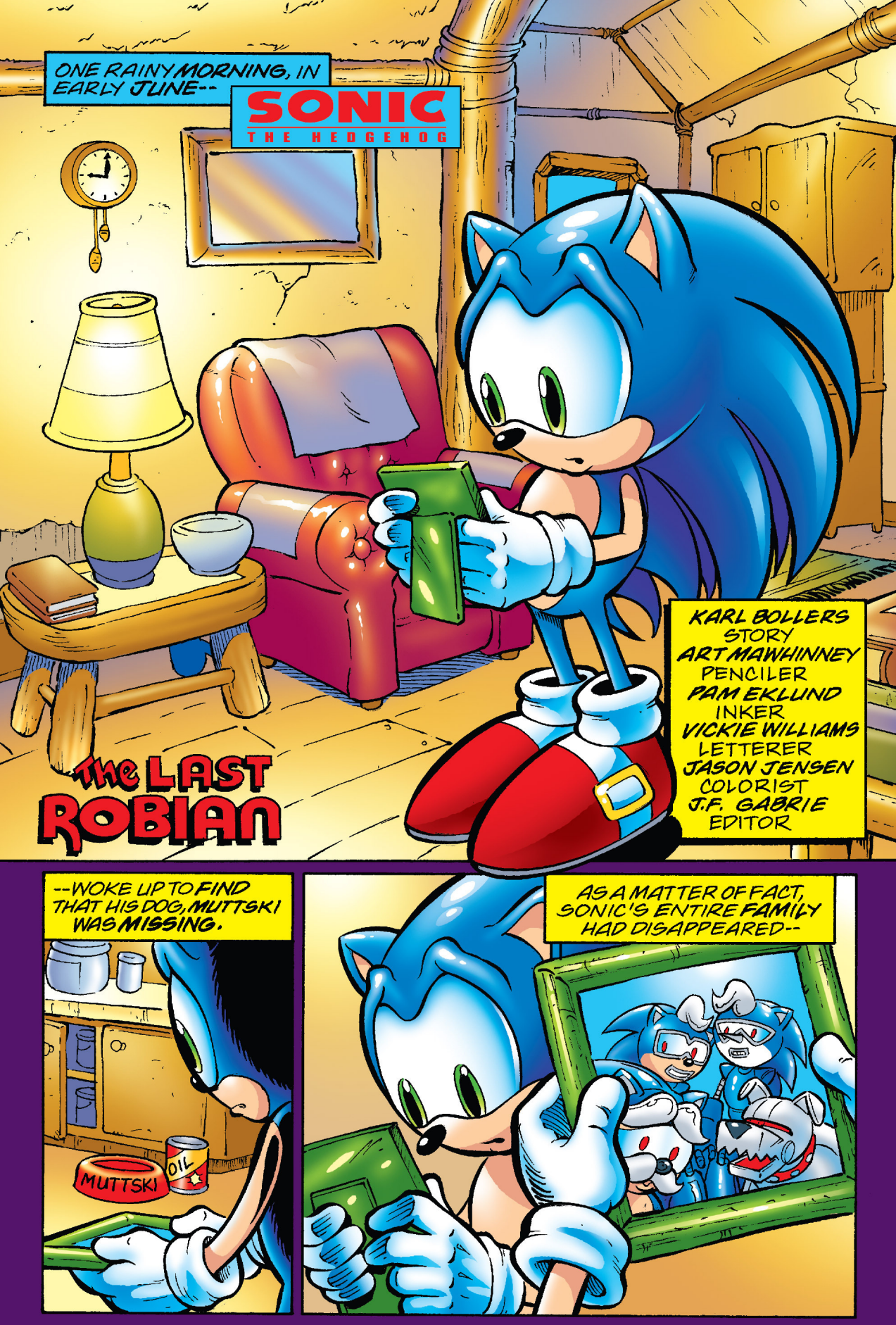

"--WHO KEPT POPPING UP EVERY NOW AND THEN--
WHO'D OF THUNK THE RAT WOULD GET CAUGHT IN HIS OWN TRAP?!
OR YOU'D BE HANGING OUT WITH THE CHAOTIX?

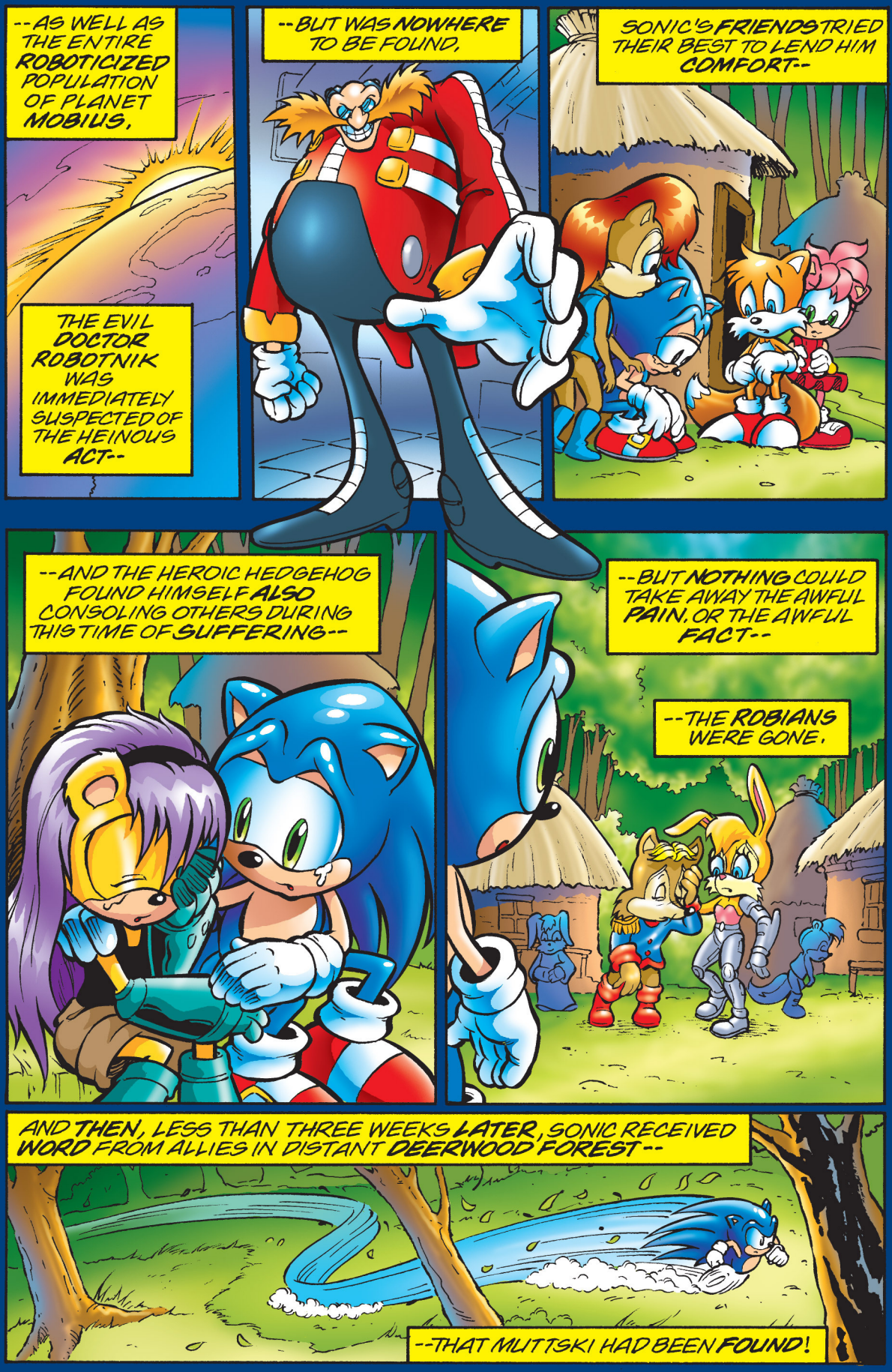
"--SOMETIMES AS FRIENDS, BUT USUALLY WE'D END UP BASHING EACH OTHER OVER SOME STUPID REASON!

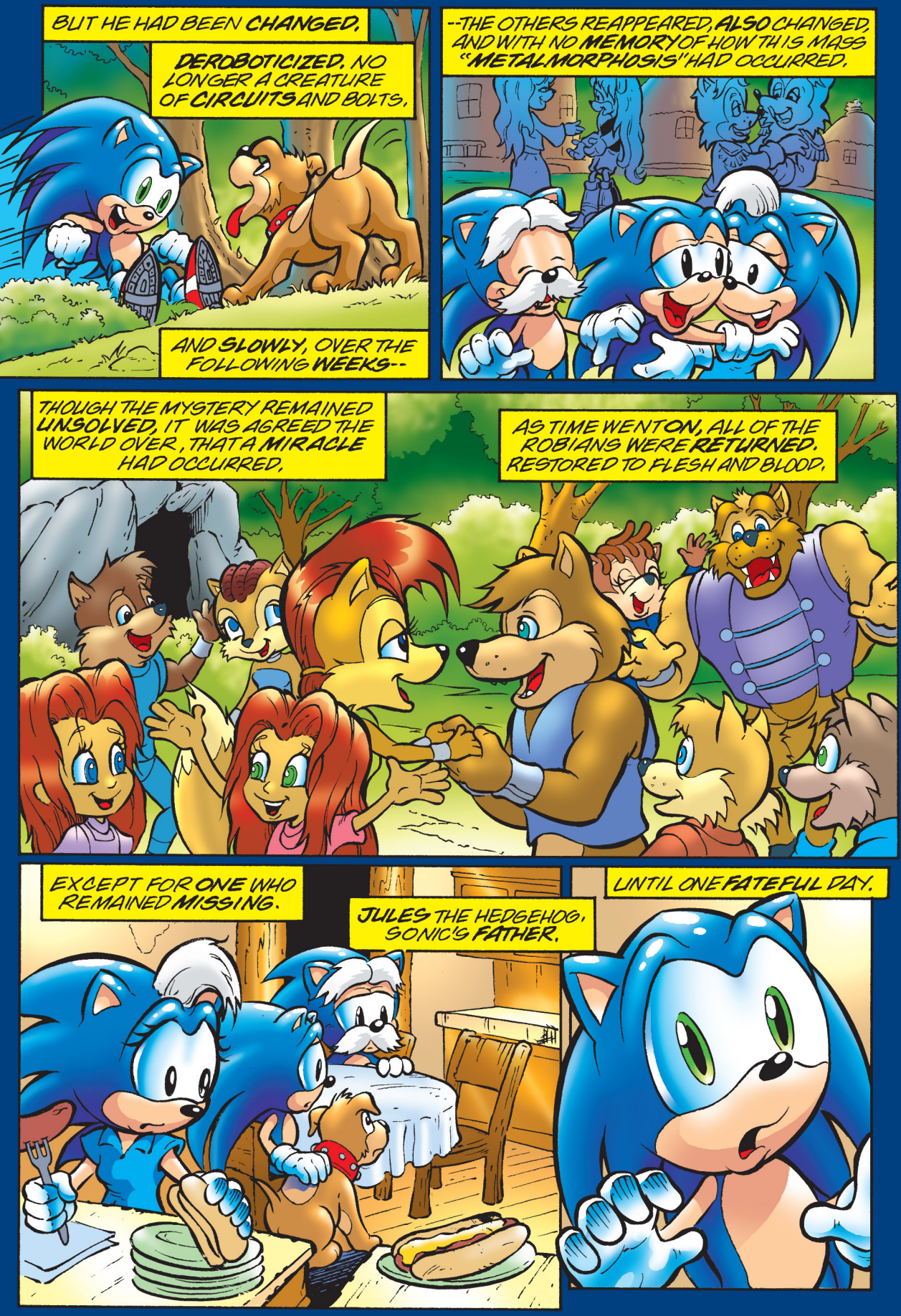

"BACK ON THE FLOATING ISLAND, ARCHIMEDES USED MY BUDS TO LURE ME TO HIM...
SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US, KNUCKLES!
WE'VE A LOT TO DISCUSS!
"IT TURNED OUT HE WAS GOING TO TEACH ME A THING OR TWO ABOUT BEING A GUARDIAN--

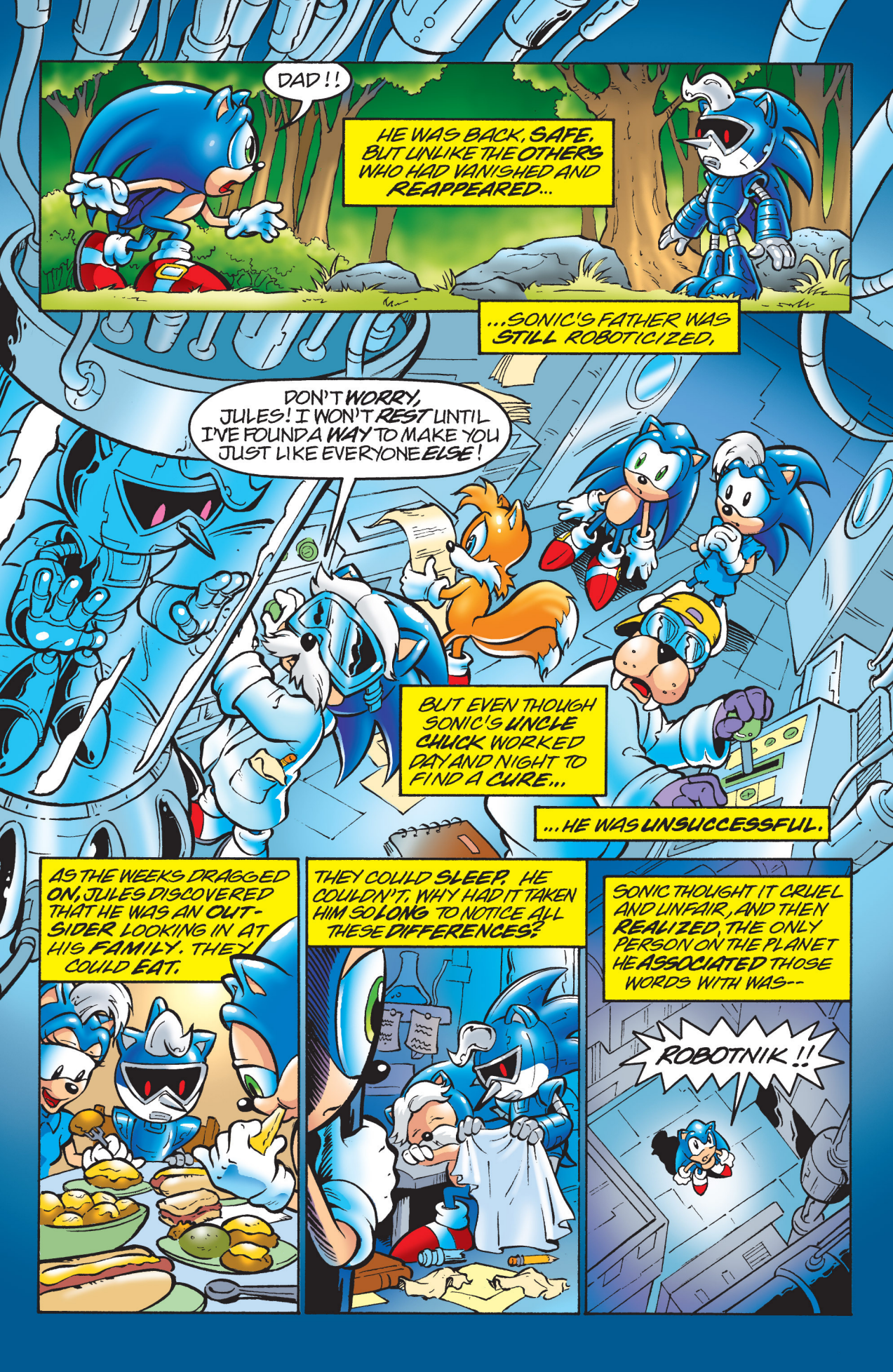
"--UNTIL MY ANCESTOR'S BROTHER, DIMITRI, POPPED IN TO GIVE ME A CRASH COURSE HIMSELF!
BEHOLD THE AWESOME POWER OF--
--ENERJAK!
"THINGS LOOKED GRIM FOR AWHILE THERE, BUT WE WON IN THE END--
"--THANKS TO SOME ASSISTANCE FROM THE FIRE-ANTS--
"--AND SOME HIDDEN HELP FROM MY FATHER, LOCKE!
"BUT EVEN WITH ENERJAK OUT OF SIGHT, THERE WAS STILL KRAGOK AND THE DARK LEGION TO DEAL WITH SOON AFTER THAT...
YOU CAN EITHER JOIN US, KNUCKLES--
--OR DIE!

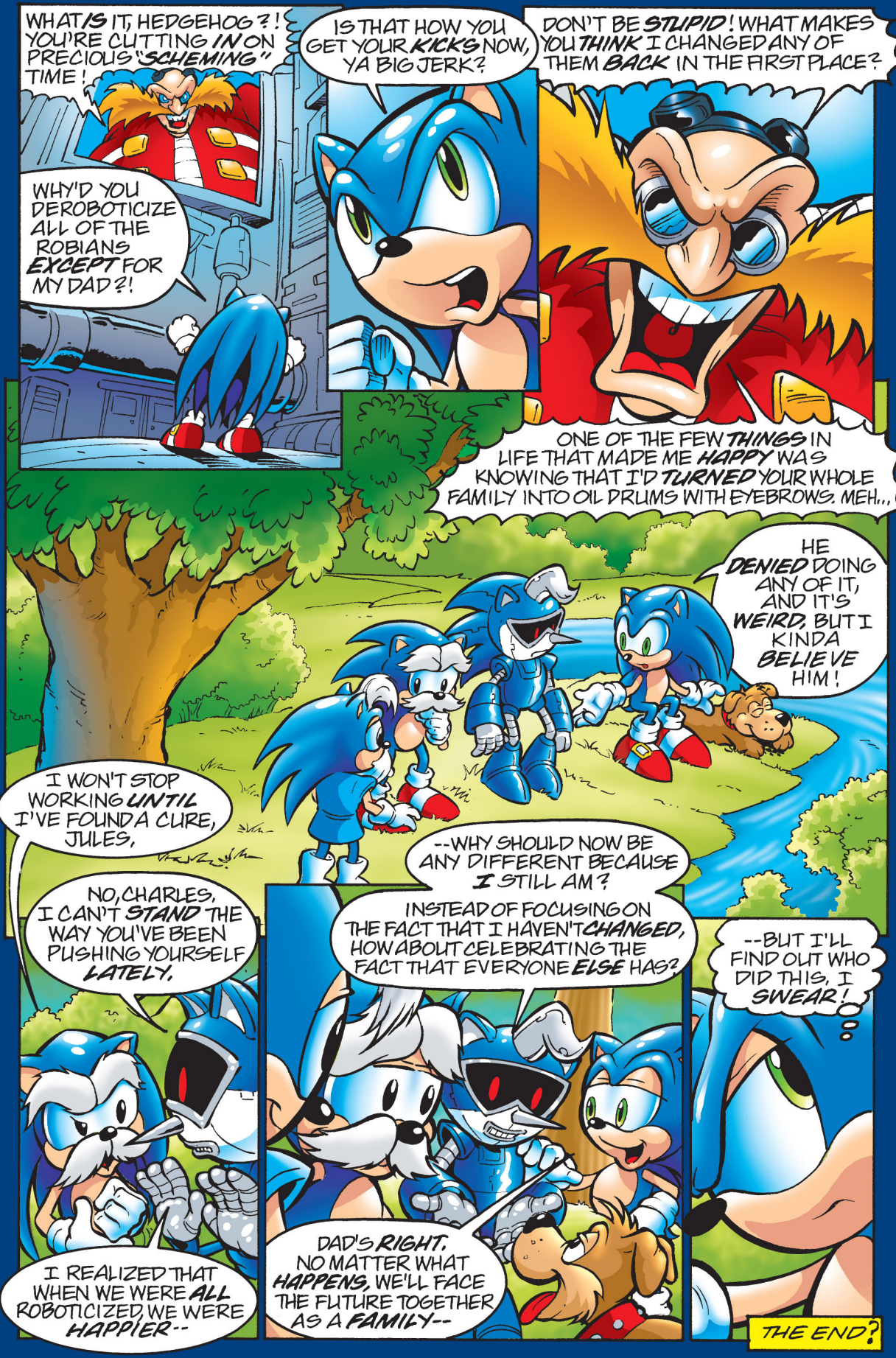

"WE FOUGHT, MORE OR LESS, TO A DRAW, AND I ENDED UP MEETING JULIE-SU AS A RESULT...
YOU'RE A-- A GIRL!
BOY! YOU'RE A SWIFT ONE!
"YOU HAD A HARDER TIME DEALING WITH THE RESTORATION OF BOTH ECHIDNAOPOLIS AND YOUR MOTHER MOVING TO THE ISLAND.
DON'T TELL ME MY SON HAS FORGOTTEN HIS OWN MOTHER!
"I'D RATHER DEAL WITH ENERJAK LITERALLY TAKING ME APART--
ENJOY LIFE AS A NEURON, KNUCKLES!
HA HAHA HAHA
--THAN HAVING TO DEAL WITH MY PARENTS!
MOST OF THE TIME, ANYWAY!
WERE THEY THAT DIFFICULT FOR YOU?
MAYBE NOT!
WHEN I GOT THE FIRST HINT SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT ME--
YOUR INJURIES! THEY'RE--THEY'RE DISAPPEARING!
BUT HOW?
--THAT WAS REALLY THE PITS!
NEXT: IT'S JUDGEMENT DAY FOR KNUCKLES! BE HERE FOR THE ASTOUNDING CONCLUSION!


ONE RAINY MORNING, IN EARLY JUNE--
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
THE LAST ROBIAN
KARL BOLLERS STORY
ART MAWHINNEY PENCILER
PAM EKLUND INKER
VICKIE WILLIAMS LETTERER
JASON JENSEN COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE EDITOR
--WOKE UP TO FIND THAT HIS DOG, MUTTSKI WAS MISSING.
MUTTSKI
OIL
AS A MATTER OF FACT, SONIC'S ENTIRE FAMILY HAD DISAPPEARED--


--AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE ROBOTICIZED POPULATION OF PLANET MOBIUS,
THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK WAS IMMEDIATELY SUSPECTED OF THE HEINOUS ACT--
--BUT WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
SONIC'S FRIENDS TRIED THEIR BEST TO LEND HIM COMFORT--
--AND THE HEROIC HEDGEHOG FOUND HIMSELF ALSO CONSOLING OTHERS DURING THIS TIME OF SUFFERING--
--BUT NOTHING COULD TAKE AWAY THE AWFUL PAIN, OR THE AWFUL FACT--
--THE ROBIANS WERE GONE.
AND THEN, LESS THAN THREE WEEKS LATER, SONIC RECEIVED WORD FROM ALLIES IN DISTANT DEERWOOD FOREST--
--THAT MUTTSKI HAD BEEN FOUND!


BUT HE HAD BEEN CHANGED.
DEROBOTICIZED. NO LONGER A CREATURE OF CIRCUITS AND BOLTS,
AND SLOWLY, OVER THE FOLLOWING WEEKS--
--THE OTHERS REAPPEARED, ALSO CHANGED, AND WITH NO MEMORY OF HOW THIS MASS "METALMORPHOSIS" HAD OCCURRED.
THOUGH THE MYSTERY REMAINED UNSOLVED, IT WAS AGREED THE WORLD OVER, THAT A MIRACLE HAD OCCURRED,
AS TIME WENT ON, ALL OF THE ROBIANS WERE RETURNED. RESTORED TO FLESH AND BLOOD.
EXCEPT FOR ONE WHO REMAINED MISSING.
JULES THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC'S FATHER.
UNTIL ONE FATEFUL DAY.


DAD!!
HE WAS BACK, SAFE, BUT UNLIKE THE OTHERS WHO HAD VANISHED AND REAPPEARED...
...SONIC'S FATHER WAS STILL ROBOTICIZED.
DON'T WORRY, JULES! I WON'T REST UNTIL I'VE FOUND A WAY TO MAKE YOU JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!
BUT EVEN THOUGH SONIC'S UNCLE CHUCK WORKED DAY AND NIGHT TO FIND A CURE...
...HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.
AS THE WEEKS DRAGGED ON, JULES DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS AN OUTSIDER LOOKING IN AT HIS FAMILY. THEY COULD EAT.
THEY COULD SLEEP. HE COULDN'T. WHY HAD IT TAKEN HIM SO LONG TO NOTICE ALL THESE DIFFERENCES?
SONIC THOUGHT IT CRUEL AND UNFAIR, AND THEN REALIZED, THE ONLY PERSON ON THE PLANET HE ASSOCIATED THOSE WORDS WITH WAS--
ROBOTNIK!!


WHAT IS IT, HEDGEHOG?! YOU'RE CUTTING IN ON PRECIOUS "SCHEMING" TIME!
IS THAT HOW YOU GET YOUR KICKS NOW, YA BIG JERK?
DON'T BE STUPID! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CHANGED ANY OF THEM BACK IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WHY'D YOU DEROBOTICIZE ALL OF THE ROBIANS EXCEPT FOR MY DAD?!
ONE OF THE FEW THINGS IN LIFE THAT MADE ME HAPPY WAS KNOWING THAT I'D TURNED YOUR WHOLE FAMILY INTO OIL DRUMS WITH EYEBROWS. MEH...
HE DENIED DOING ANY OF IT, AND IT'S WEIRD, BUT I KINDA BELIEVE HIM!
I WON'T STOP WORKING UNTIL I'VE FOUND A CURE, JULES,
--WHY SHOULD NOW BE ANY DIFFERENT BECAUSE I STILL AM?
NO, CHARLES, I CAN'T STAND THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN PUSHING YOURSELF LATELY.
INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON THE FACT THAT I HAVEN'T CHANGED, HOW ABOUT CELEBRATING THE FACT THAT EVERYONE ELSE HAS?
--BUT I'LL FIND OUT WHO DID THIS, I SWEAR!
I REALIZED THAT WHEN WE WERE ALL ROBOTICIZED WE WERE HAPPIER--
DAD'S RIGHT. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'LL FACE THE FUTURE TOGETHER AS A FAMILY--
THE END?